

Arlington Cultural Council Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2015

Arlington Senior Center, 7:30

Present: Eliza Burden, Scott Samenfeld, Maggie Husak, Suzi Lubar, Jeff Timperi

Visitors: Robin Cassel, Merli Guerra, Asia Kepka, Toni Langerman

Called to order at 7:38

ITEM 1 Welcome, and introduction of visitors

Eliza welcomed our visitors and asked them to introduce themselves. Council members also introduced themselves to the visitors. Merli Guerra is a former grant recipient with Luminarium Dance, Asia Kepka is a photographer and current MCC fellow, Toni Langerman is a friend of Suzi's and is a potter and Robin Cassel is a former member of the AEEF board and also knows both Suzi and Eliza.

Jeff B. has also reached out to Dave Harris, and MCC fellow, and Karin has reached out to Nilou Moochhala, a 2015 ACC grant recipient.

ITEM 2 Approval of May Minutes

Voting on the May minutes was deferred to July due to lack of a quorum.

ITEM 3 RFPs

2015-08 Art Rocks Spy Pond - RFP received

2015-12 Art, Food Community - RFP received

2015-10 The Marble Collection – RFP received

2015-01 Legendary Locals – material going to publisher tomorrow

2015-29 Sharing a New Song – Scott heard today, paperwork underway

2015-03 Creek River String Band – both performance complete

2015-05 Arlington Art Hunt currently underway

2015-02 I am Arlington opening at Feast of the East

2015-04 Family Dance at Robbins Farm – working on getting permit from Rec dept.

2015-27 Outdoor Summer Concert at Robbins Farm Park – permit from Rec dept. received

2015-30 From Seniors to Kids and Back Again – has taken place, RFP will be coming shortly.

Not yet received: 2015-18 Images of Arlington, 2015-24 Arlington Public School Days, 2015-31 True Story Theater

ITEM 4 Community Input requirement

Scott reported that approximately 120 people have taken the survey to date. It is open until the end of June. The survey has been publicized on Facebook, the Arlington list, via town email and in the Arlington Advocate. Suzi suggested sending out notices again.

ITEM 5 Update re Parks and Rec requirement

In the past, feedback collected from the public at the Arlington Alive gathering showed a desire for more use of open spaces. Many programs have happened, but the permit process can be complicated. There is a concern, particularly from the recreation department, that people are receiving grants prior to getting preliminary approval for a permit.

Merli reported that it took about 6 months to get all plans in place for her project at the Water Tower. She had a particularly difficult time because the area near the water tower had not been used for a public gathering before. There was a lack of communication and agreement about which town organizations needed to approve the event, which also complicated matters. She also explained that she had gotten preliminary approval (even had a letter in her application packet) but then when she went to get the permit from the Rec Dept, the Rec Dept had no record of it. Suzi suggested adding a list of town contacts for permits to the ACC website.

Eliza reported that she reviewed the grant guidelines information provided by ACC and she feels that permit requirements are clear. Scott will also review the grant requirements to determine whether the permit information is sufficient.

Merli suggested maintaining a list of successful past projects at various locations for applicants to use to show precedent for using particular public spaces.

ITEM 6 Upcoming vacant officer roles, general succession, and recruitment

Jeff T. has agreed to take on treasurer when Maggie cycles off. There will be time for Maggie to train Jeff before her term is completed.

Elisabeth has voiced an interest in becoming corresponding secretary.

Scott has taken back publicity via the website and Eliza is handling Facebook.

ITEM 7 Town Day Planning

Karin already has, or will soon reserve the ACC Town Day booth. It is typically located near Not Your Average Joe's.

We will use the booth as an opportunity to discuss ACC with the community, and to hand out grant applications. We will also promote projects remaining in the 2015 grant year. We will form a 2-3 person subcommittee to coordinate. Scott noted that large scale photographs hung at the booth were very helpful in inspiring discussions with people. Eliza suggested that we use some from last year if we have them.

Asia volunteered to photograph a few current grant recipients to display at the booth.

ITEM 8 Grant Cycle

Local grant guidelines must be posted by 9/1/15. The council will incorporate new information from the survey into the guidelines, but we do not expect them to change significantly. This is likely a task for the corresponding secretary. We will discuss this task at the July meeting.

Dates for 2016 grant cycle:

- 09/01/15 Press release and distribution of 2016 grant guidelines
- 09/16/15 Grant information session
- 10/15/15 Application deadline
- 11/04/15, 11/05/15 Grant applicant presentations
- 11/15/15 Grant deliberations

Suzi will schedule rooms for the grant information session, grant application presentations and grant deliberations.

ITEM 9 New Business

Due to medical leave of Maggie's contact in the comptroller's office, a batch of RFPs and reimbursements have not yet been processed. Maggie is investigating.

Upcoming Events

- June 22 – Two To Tango, Sr. Center
- July 13 - ACC Meeting, Arlington Senior Center, 7:30pm
- July 19 – Family Dance @ Robbins Farm
- August 10 - ACC Meeting, Arlington Senior Center, 7:30pm

- Sept 12 – Town Day